

**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

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**FOLLOW UP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN  
MIGRATION OBSERVATORY IN MOROCCO,  
*Item proposed by the Kingdom of Morocco***

## CONCEPT NOTE OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE OPERATIONNALISATION OF THE AFRICAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

### I. CONTEXT

1. The Decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (**Assembly/AU/Dec.695 (XXXI) to establish, in Morocco, an African Migration Observatory**), as an AU organ, addresses the real and pressing need of Africa to **generate a better knowledge, understanding and expertise of the migratory phenomenon**.

2. The shortcomings and scarcity of data on migration have limited the capacity of States to conceive coherent migration policies. Furthermore, the informal character of migratory movements, the porosity of borders and the complexity of the collection of data on human mobility at the continental level, going from and to Africa, have made the management of migratory movements very difficult.

3. Considering that a great part of African migration takes place in Africa, making therefore south-south migration a larger paradigm than south-north migration, it remains important that these migratory flows be managed in a manner that guarantees to migrants their rights and protects them from abuse, trafficking and other risks.

4. The impact of migration on development, particularly with the substantial contribution of the diaspora and the mobility of competences in Africa, including the existence of several indicators related to migration in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), is undeniable. In fact, the follow-up on the progress of countries in the implementation of SDGs, requires that countries of Africa have the capacity to assess their efforts in order to improve their management of migration, reduce the risks and maximize the benefits of migration for development.

5. Moreover, migratory movements, whether within the region or towards other regions, have contributed in remodeling international flows, in having an impact on economic growth and neighboring countries, in connecting societies in their diversity, in contributing to social development and in exercising, progressively, pressure on policy makers in host countries. In this regard, collecting and maintaining comprehensive and comparative data on that extent, the composition, the direction of migratory flows and their motives, including the impact made on Africa, is fundamental for the development of an efficient migration governance.

6. The report of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, Champion of Migration in Africa, titled « For an African Agenda on Migration », underlines that « the multidimensional phenomenon of migration requires significant improvement in quantitative and qualitative data on migration, coherent national policies, an effective sub-regional coordination, a relevant continental perspective and a mutually beneficial international partnership.»

7. The implementation of these four axes, presented in the African Agenda, for a better management of migration, **requires data collection on migratory flows and**

**the sharing of information through an interconnected system** between sub-regions and different African countries.

8. The African Migration Observatory constitutes an African tool that will enable to fill in the deficiencies of Africa in terms of migratory data. It will also guide African countries, after having expressed the need, in the elaboration of efficient migration policies to enable them to align themselves with the orientations of the Strategic Framework of Migration (MPFA) for Africa and its 2018-2030 action plan.

9. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in Marrakesh on 10 December 2018, has recommended the creation of Regional Observatories on Migration, among which, the African Migration Observatory. The latter, fitted with the triple function of mastering, anticipating and proposing specific tasks with well-defined objectives and working methods enabling it to honor them.

## **II. MISSIONS**

**The African Migration Observatory is invested with four main tasks:**

1. The observation and surveillance of migratory flows through data collection, their analysis and their sharing;
2. The conduct of research and diffusion of good practices in the fields of migration ;
3. **The establishment of an information system capable of monitoring migratory trends, aware of the evolution of the number of migrants and African migration policies** through the creation of a network between the observatory and the RECs, in order to share regularly data and information and to confront important issues for countries of origin and destination in Africa and elsewhere;
4. The reinforcement of capacities and technical support to African policy makers with a view to establishing and improving their capacities in terms of data collection in order to contribute in improving their national migration policies and to integrate the dimension of migration in their national development plans. The reinforcement of capacities involves as well, professionals, experts, national and governmental institutions.

## **III. OBJECTIVES**

10. The management of migration through the elaboration of migration policies, the monitoring of their implementation and the evaluation of their impact, requires a detailed knowledge of different levels, trends and types of migration, of their political and judicial environment and practices of identification and evaluation. The African Migration Observatory will have the aim to achieve the following objectives grouped in three main categories:

**1. The identification of key issues :**

- ✓ Identify the challenges and opportunities related to migration both in and outside of Africa through the establishment of dialogue between the AMO, the RECs, national experts of migration and stakeholders;
- ✓ Collect and analyze basic information, source of migratory trends, notably immigration, emigration and profiles of existing migration;
- ✓ Improve national policies based on migratory data, judicial frameworks of migration and existing profiles of migration.

**2. The reinforcement of capacities for data collection, research, analysis and migration governance :**

- ✓ **Reinforce the capacities of African countries** through the organization of trainings and workshops for professionals, statisticians and national experts, based on the needs and shortcomings identified at the national and regional levels for the use of existing data sources, such as data census, and increase the number of experts for data analysis with a view to monitoring indicators of sustainable development related to migration;
- ✓ **Bring together other existing initiatives in Africa** by giving them the necessary support in terms of reinforcement of competences, and the cognitive data sharing needed for the accomplishment of the missions for which they were created;
- ✓ **Use non-exploited available data and resort to administrative sources that are largely underutilized** to understand trends of migration, profiles and the needs of migrants in order to orient policies;
- ✓ **Harmonize data and improve their availability** for a better understanding of interdependence between migration and development ;
- ✓ **Promote the integration of migrants** in the strategies for the reduction of poverty and in development plans ;
- ✓ **Encourage the protection of personal data** of migrants for their respect, dignity and well-being;
- ✓ **Ensure a strong cooperation between different networks of research**, the **creation** of new networks and the encouragement of dialogue between researchers and policy-decision makers.

### 3. Communication/ Documentation :

- ✓ **Elaborate updated, credible and standardized statistics** through the collection and analysis of data in countries located in the same migratory routes ;
- ✓ **Develop tools** for diagnosis, for the support of decision-making, and for methodological guides and arguments, allowing States to develop a harmonized and efficient management of migration which respects human rights;
- ✓ **Establish a permanent African System for the Elaboration of Reports on Migration** similar to the Continuous Reporting System of Migration of OECD countries, and to the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas. A number of pilot countries or regions can be selected;
- ✓ **Establish a network of existing research centers in Africa** in order to provide policy makers with harmonized and credible data and analysis on intra-regional and inter-regional migration ;
- ✓ **Facilitate access to data on migration** and its diffusion through periodical publications, reports as well as the web site of the African Migration Observatory.
- ✓ **Create an African Portal on Migration** offering access to updated data on intra and extra African migratory movements, to African policy makers, statisticians, journalists, researchers and to the large public;

### IV. THE DELIVERABLES DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMO

- Constitution of the network of focal points of RECs ;
- Creation of the African Portal on Migration ;
- Development of tools for the reinforcement of capacities in terms of Data collection and analysis of information ;
- Planning of annual information workshops for the continent, sub-regions and for pilot countries, depending on the identified needs by the RECs and States ;
- Annual report on Migration in Africa submitted to the PRC.

### V. PARTNERS: IOM, OECD AND UN AGENCIES :

- The Observatory will benefit from the expertise and long experience of the IOM in terms of data collection and analysis of information. It will also benefit in the area of reinforcement of capacities in the world and in

Africa, including through the African Centre for the Reinforcement of Capacities in Moshi, Tanzania and the Observatory on migration for the countries of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) which include 8 sub-Saharan African pilots.

- The Observatory will seek support from the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre in Berlin with a view to establishing guiding principles for data collection and the development of migratory profiles;
- The African Observatory will benefit from the expertise of the OECD in the field of data collection and harmonized migration statistics;
- It will cooperate with UN agencies as well as UNDESA on migration issues and in terms of data collection, its analyses and research.

## **VI. FUNDING**

11. As an AU organ, the Observatory will be financed through:

- ✓ The ordinary and voluntary contributions of AU Member States.
- ✓ The contribution of host countries for funding part of its budget related to the headquarters of the Observatory;
- ✓ Regional and international partners.

**DRAFT**

**DECISION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE  
AFRICAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY (AMO) IN THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

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**The Executive Council,**

1. **RECALLS** decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.695 (XXXII) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, adopted during its 31st ordinary session in Nouakchott on the establishment of the African Migration Observatory (AMO) in the Kingdom of Morocco;
2. **COMMENDS** the Kingdom of Morocco for its central role in hosting the Intergovernmental Conference which adopted the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 and the important role the Observatory will undertake to implement the Marrakech Compact on Migration;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the efforts deployed by the Commission and the Kingdom of Morocco in the operationalization of the African Migration Observatory;
4. **WELCOMES** the signing, on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech, of the host agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the African Union Commission on the operationalization of the AMO;
5. **EXPRESSES** gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for offering to host the headquarters of the Observatory as specified by the host agreement;
6. **HIGHLIGHTS** the important role of the AMO in inter alia the support of existing continental initiatives on migration, through the collection, exchange, analysis and sharing of data with a view to efficiently address migration challenges;
7. **INVITES** Member States and development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the AMO and its programs;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to fast track the development of the relevant statute, structure and financial implications of establishing the African Migration Observatory for consideration and adoption by the relevant AU policy organs by January 2020;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to present a comprehensive report on the operationalization of AMO during the ordinary session of January 2020.

2019-02-07

# Follow up on the establishment of the African Migration Observatory in Morocco, Item proposed by the Kingdom of Morocco

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